

Message Text

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ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 SCS-03 SCA-01 RSR-01 /096 W
----- 024976

R 101200 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4048
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
CINCPAC
CDR JCRC NKP THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3576

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: SEARCH FOR MIA' S IN LAOS: MEETING WITH LPF SECRETARY
GENERAL PHOUMI VONGVICHIT

REF: VIENTIANE 3315

BEGIN SUMMARY: ACCOMPANIED BY PW OFFICER, I MET WITH LPF SEC GEN
PHOUMI VONGVICHIT AND LPF PERMREP SOTH PHETRASY MORNING OF 10
MAY AT LPF HEADQUARTERS. PHOUMI REPORTED HE HAD NOT RECEIVED
REPLY FROM LPF CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO EMBASSY MEMO REQUESTING EARLY
ACTIVITY ON SEARCH FOR MIA' S. I RENEWED REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
CONCERNING FATE OF PWS HRDLICKA AND DEBRUIN AND TRANSMITTED
INFORMATION CONCERNING DISAPPEARANCE OF CASI PORTER AIRCRAFT ON
MAY 7, REQUESTING LPF ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING AIRCRAFT, PILOT
AND PASSENGERS. NINETY- MINUTE DISCUSSION WAS CONDUCTED IN
CONGENIAL MANNER BUT LPF STANCE WAS HARD AND UNCOMPROMISING.
END SUMMARY.

1. I OPENED DISCUSSION BY SETTING FORTH THREE POINTS REGARDING
MIA' S IN LAOS. IN CONNECTION WITH OUR DEMARCHE REQUESTING THAT
QUESTION OF MIA SEARCH BE DISSOCIATED FROM OTHER ASPECTS OF
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VIENTIANE AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO PERMIT EARLY ACTIVITY, I REITERATED IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THIS SUBJECT BY USG. I INFORMED PHOUMI OF ENCOURAGING PROGRESS BEING MADE BY FPJMT AND CURRENT HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITY UNDERWAY RELATED TO DIC IN DRV, AND COMMENTED THAT I WAS HOPEFUL THAT LAO PARTIES WOULD BE SIMILARLY COOPERATIVE IN SEARCH FOR LAOS MIA' S. PHOUMI STATED THAT TEXT OF OUR PROPOSAL HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO SAM NEUA LAST WEEK AND HE IS CERTAIN THAT PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG AND LPF CENTRAL COMMITTEE ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING THE PROPOSAL. IT WAS PHOUMI' S OPINION THAT LPF COULD NOT, FOR REASONS OF SECURITY OF SEARCH TEAMS, PERMIT SEARCH ACTIVITY UNTIL CEASEFIRE BECAME MORE STABILIZED AND ZONES OF CONTROL BETTER DEFINED.

2. WHEN I RENEWED REQUEST FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FATE OF HRDLICKA AND DEBRUIN, PHOUMI APPEARED TO BE UNAWARE OF DETAILS IN THEIR CASES WHICH WE GAVE TO SOTH ON EARLIER VISIT. SOTH STATED THAT THE INFORMATION HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO SAM NEUA. PHOUMI THEN STATED VERY DEFINITELY THAT HE COULD CONFIRM INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY TRANSMITTED TO USG THAT THERE ARE NO ADDITIONAL US PWS BEING HELD BY LPF. WE THEN ASKED FOR DETAILS REGARDING FATE OF HRDLICKA, DEBRUIN, AND OTHER AMERICANS WHO MAY HAVE, AT ONE TIME, BEEN HELD CAPTIVE. PHOUMI REITERATED THAT, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, THIS INFORMATION IS BEING GATHERED BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND WOULD BE TRANSMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT. WE URGED THAT, AS HUMANITARIAN GESTURE, INFORMATION GATHERED BY TRANSMITTED AS SOON AS IT IS DEVELOPED, THROUGH ANY CHANNEL LPF DEEMED APPROPRIATE, ICC, ICRC, RLG OR DIRECTLY TO USG. PHOUMI AGREED TO TRANSMIT THIS REQUEST TO SAM NEUA.

3. I HANDED PHOUMI FRENCH- LANGUAGE RESUME OF INFORMATION CONCERNING DISAPPEARANCE ON MAY 7 OF CONTINENTAL AIR SERVICES PORTER AIRCRAFT WITH AMERICAN PILOT AND FOUR LAO PASSENGERS ABOARD. AFTER SHORT EXCHANGE REGARDING WHETHER PORTER MISSION CONSTITUTED A VIOLATION OF CF AGREEMENT, PHOUMI AGREED TO TRANSMIT INFORMATION TO SAM NEUA AND REQUEST INFORMATION CONCERNING FATE OF AIRCRAFT AND THOSE ABOARD. HE STATED THAT HIS DELEGATION WOULD INFORM ME AS SOON AS ANY INFORMATION IS RECEIVED ON ALL SUBJECTS DISCUSSED ABOVE.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH PHOUMI' S MANNER WAS PLEASANT AND CONGENIAL, CONFIDENTIAL

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HIS ATTITUDE AND MESSAGE WERE UNCOMPROMISING. IT BECOMES INCREASINGLY APPARENT THAT LPF INTENDS TO USE PROMISE OF EARNEST MIA SEARCH AS LEVERAGE TO OBTAIN US ASSISTANCE IN ACHIEVING ITS GOALS IN LAO SETTLEMENT. PHOUMI SUGGESTED REPEATEDLY THAT USG USE ITS GOOD OFFICES TOWARD THIS END.
DEAN

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